separate queue at registration counter and also in the OPD when they consult the doctor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The beneficiaries suggested that the timings of distribution of local purchase medicines may be continued till 1.30 p.m., and the local purchase medicines be given to them on the next working day, separate queues for Senior Citizens both at the registration counter and at the doctor's room be made.

(e) and (f) The element of 'surprise' will be lost if these are chalked out in advance and made public.

Sale of fake medicines in mofussil areas

3954. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake medicines are causing worry as they are sold in mofussil areas in the name of reputed brands;

(b) if so, the action proposed to strengthen quality checks at district level; and

(c) the action proposed for strictly enforcing penal provisions for selling spurious medicines so that offenders are swiftly brought to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is concern over reports that have being appearing in the media that medicines of questionable quality are sold in the market including the mofussil areas, faking the name of reputed brand names.

(b) The State Drugs Control Officers randomly draw samples from manufacturers, traders etc, including those licensed in the moffusil areas, and get their quality validated through their Government Laboratories.

For speedy testing of Drugs and unearthing/detecting drugs of questionable quality, Central Government has advised the State Government from time to time and has also provided assistance to strengthen and augment infrastructure facilities in their Laboratories.

(c) Section 17 (B) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 deems spurious drug as a medicine manufactured under a name which belongs to another drug, or if it is an imitation or substitute, wholly or partly of another drug, or if the label or container bears the name of a fictitious or non existent-firm Section 27 of the said Act prescribes penal provisions for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Sale of spurious drug, if detected, is punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.10,000/-.

The issue of spurious drugs is dealt by the State Licensing Authorities. If drugs, after testing, are found to be not-of-standard quality or spurious or adulterated, action is initiated by them in terms of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder as they enforce the provisions of the said Act. Punitive action is taken by launching prosecutions as per the provisions of the Act after completing necessary investigations in the matter.

Expansion of Rural Health Infrastructure

3955. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand rural health infrastructure during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the work done in that regard during the current Plan period, State-wise; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The targets and achievements for establishment/expansion of rural health care institution, is given at Statement-I *(see* below).

(b) and (c) Apart from establishing rural health care institutions in the country, a number of operational strategies have been enunciated in the Ninth Five Year Plan period, for improving health services in rural areas, some of which are as under: